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EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE TIMES.

The past few years have been marked in the history of the country by great accumulations of fortune. This has been especially true in our large cities, where the opportunities of amassing wealth have been very great, and this rapid acquisition of wealth has been accompanied by an extravagance in the style of living which is ruinous in its influence upon the community. Large fortunes have been easily made, and are spent without care or thought of the future.

One illustration of this extravagance is seen in the style and building of the houses which are now built and occupied. The millionaire erects a palace, and fills it with the costliest productions gathered from every land. Those in moderate means imitate these leaders to the utmost extent of their credit. Every man seeks to outdo his neighbor in style and luxury, and this had spirit of emulation is productive of great injury to the people. The increase in the cost of living has been greatly enhanced on account of this taste for an extravagant style of life. Many young men are prevented from getting married by the cost of starting an establishment, and families in comfortable circumstances find it utterly impossible to live in a style corresponding to conventional ideas, and thus society is more and more composed of wealthy magnates and those who are in the habit of referring to their own rank. The styles and magnificence of the new houses to which we allude may be gathered from a few instances in New York.

Several houses, recently erected, of only twenty-five thousand dollars, and of the costliest and of the most costly materials, have been sold for sixty and seventy thousand dollars. These houses rent for six and seven thousand dollars a year, and they are furnished in a manner as luxurious as the palaces of the old world. Larger dwellings, built in the same style, are sold at two and three hundred thousand dollars.

Of course, every imaginable comfort and convenience are combined in such houses, and the most lavish expenditure is made for the sake of display. A single set of furniture costs an outlay of thousands of dollars, these useless ornaments being made often of the choicest marble, carved in Italy by skillful artists. The plate glass and gas fixtures in a single house have been estimated to cost twenty thousand dollars, and the cost of furniture, class, has commanded a rent of hundred to a thousand dollars a month; and when it is remembered that the rental is rarely one-fifth of the cost of living, the extravagance of the times can be estimated.

Such extravagance is a sin and a shame.

It is useless to say that the money thus expended is entirely in the pockets of the working classes, for their wages are not increased in proportion to the elegance of the mansion upon which they labor. The example is detrimental to public morality; it excites a morbid desire for wealth for the purpose of display. Content and happiness, and often honor and life, are sacrificed in order to gratify a vicious taste and nourish a baneful selfishness.

Luxury begets dissipation and vice and misery; and the exhibition of profuse wealth and excessive magnificence, in a country like ours, engenders public corruption and private covetousness. It is difficult to say where this extravagance will cease, for it seems to be still upon the increase.

When emulation in display exists in the community, it is natural that the end will come, not by general bankruptcy and ruin. Where money is regarded and sought only for the gratification of extravagant tastes, and used to incite rivalry and display, the result must be dissipation; and most people are estimated more according to the exhibition of wealth, and not for personal excellence or intelligence, the tone of social life must rapidly deteriorate.

It is time for reform in this matter. In view of the dangers which menace us from the carelessness of wealth as the stewards of God, and in view of the indifference of the rich have upon the community, we call upon men of wealth, and especially Christian men, to set the example of virtuous economy to the middle and poorer classes, and to make a decided effort to stem the tide of extravagance and love of display which is sweeping over the land.

MILITARY SCHOOL IN VIRGINIA.—The authorities of Virginia had proposed to re-establish the Military School of the State and to make it a national school. The Government, very properly we think, has placed a veto on this measure. There are great many things that the State needs more than it needs a Military School, and there are many, which it would be more becoming to the character of the State, to give a preference to the education of the poor, and in this the soldiers, who had no cavalry or cloaks, were obliged to bivouac in the cold, autumn night of 1860. The white waistcoat was not a real thing, but only a rag sewn on to the coat. The cloth, too, was not so well made as the men who were threat- ened in this country could easily afford. It stood "like a doll, whose arms and legs could only be moved to a certain point." The torment of pigtails and powder was almost incredible. An accurate measurement of the regimental pigtails was a great feature of the Prussian art of war. 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